

[0035] The OLED module 100 includes an OLED panel 120 in addition to the first and the second frames 130 and 110.

[0036] As shown in FIG. 3, light emitting surface (hereinafter, referred to as “front surface”) from which light is emitted in a z-direction in FIGS. 1 and 2 may be divided into a light emitting region B, where an image corresponding to input electrical signals is displayed, and a non-light emitting region C (see FIG. 3).

[0037] An optical film 121 for improving an image quality is formed at the light emitting region B. Another aspect is a driving integrated circuit (driving IC) 127 for driving the OLED panel 120 and a flexible printed circuit board (FPCB) for connecting the driving IC 127 to a substrate are installed at the non-light emitting region C.

[0038] The non-light emitting region C at which the driving IC 127 and the FPCB 129 are installed may be referred to as “pad region”.

[0039] The OLED panel 120 includes a plurality of pixels that are basic elements for displaying the image.

[0040] The pixels are arranged in a matrix pattern on the panel. If the OLED panel is an active matrix type, the pixels each include an OLED that displays an image by self-emitting light and a semiconductor device for driving the OLED.

[0041] Therefore, the pixels display an image by self-emitting light through the light emitting region B in accordance with external signals.

[0042] Various OLED and semiconductor elements may be used. Therefore, the invention is not limited to a particular type of OLED or semiconductor.

[0043] The second frame 110 is formed in a rectangular parallelepiped shape having an opened surface facing the OLED panel 120. The second frame 110 includes an opening portion 113 for exposing the light emitting region B of the OLED panel 120 and a convex portion 111 formed along an inner circumference thereof.

[0044] The opening portion 113 is formed to correspond to the light emitting region B and has a similar area to the light emitting region B so as not to block the light emitted from the light emitting region.

[0045] The convex portion 111 is a protrusion having a semicircular section to function as a part of a coupling structure for coupling the second frame 110 to the first frame 130.

[0046] The convex portion 111 may be formed on all inner surfaces (four inner surfaces) or fewer than all surfaces, for example, the convex portion 111 may be formed on only two inner surfaces facing each other.

[0047] In this embodiment, the first frame 130 is formed in a rectangular parallelepiped shape having an open surface (top surface in the drawings). The first frame 130 has an inner space 133 for receiving the OLED panel 120, as shown.

[0048] The OLED panel 120 is received in the first frame 130 such that it can emit the light toward the open portion of the first frame 130.

[0049] In addition, a concave portion 131 that will be engaged with the convex portion 111 of the second frame 110 is formed on an outer surface of the first frame 130.

[0050] In some embodiments, the concave portion 131 is a recess having a semicircular section to function as a part of the coupling structure for coupling the second frame 110 to the first frame 130.

[0051] The concave portion 131 may, for example, be formed on all outer side surfaces (four outer side surfaces) or two outer side surfaces facing each other as necessary.

[0052] Since the convex and concave portions 131 and 111 are engaged with each other, they may be formed to correspond to each other.

[0053] Shapes of the first and second frames may vary depending on, for example, a shape of the OLED panel.

[0054] In addition, sectional shapes of the convex and concave portions are not limited to the above-described semicircular shape. The sectional shapes of the convex and concave portions may vary as they couple the first and second frames to each other.

[0055] For example, the sectional shapes of the concave and convex portions may be a triangular shape, a trapezoidal shape, an oval shape, and/or a hook shape.

[0056] The first and second frames 130 and 110 may be formed of stainless steel.

[0057] Alternatively, the first and second frames 130 and 110 may be formed of cold rolled steel considering manufacturing cost and strength. Alternatively, the first and second frames 130 and 110 may be formed of aluminum, a nickel-silver alloy, magnesium, a magnesium alloy, or a polymer resin considering weight. The materials of the first frame 130 and the second frame 110 are not limited.

[0058] The following will describe an assembly process of the OLED panel 120 and the first and second frames 130 and 110.

[0059] The OLED panel 120 is placed in the inner space 133 of the first frame 130 such that the front surface of the OLED 120 faces out of the first frame 130.

[0060] Accordingly, the surfaces of the OLED panel 120 other than the front surface are protected by the first frame 130. That is, the side and rear surfaces of the OLED panel 120 can be protected by the first frame 130.

[0061] The second frame 110 is subsequently coupled to the first frame 130 such that the opening portion 113 of the second frame 110 corresponds to the light emitting region B of the OLED panel 120.

[0062] In this embodiment, because the second frame 110 covers the first frame 130, the side surfaces of the second frame 110 are located on the outer surfaces of the first frame 130. The convex portion 111 of the second frame 110 is engaged with the concave portion 131 of the first frame 130, thereby securely fixing the first and second frames 130 and 110 to each other.

[0063] Since the opening portion 113 of the second frame 110 corresponds to substantially only the light emitting region B of the OLED panel 120, the non-light emitting region C of the OLED panel, at which the driving IC 127 is formed, is covered and protected by the second frame 110.

[0064] Therefore, because the front surface of the OLED panel 10 is shielded and protected from direct external impact, durability of the OLED module 100 is improved.

[0065] In addition, since the first and second frames are securely coupled to each other to define a complete rectangular parallelepiped body, the OLED module 100 is not easily deformed by twisting and bending loads.

[0066] The following will describe the OLED module 100 in more detail with reference to FIGS. 3 and 4.

[0067] FIG. 3 is a schematic front view of the OLED module of FIG. 1.

[0068] FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along line IV-IV of FIG. 3.

[0069] The enlarged circle of FIG. 4 illustrates a state where the convex portion 111 and the concave portion 131 are engaged with each other.